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DRAYTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1937.

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Drayton Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The death of your Medical Officer of Health has made it necessary for me to make the health return for his last year in office.

There has been little change in the Birth Rate from that of 1936. The Death Rate shows a rise on 1936 and is also higher than that for the country. The Infantile Mortality Rate has more than doubled itself in the twelve months but is still yet below the average for the country.

There has been a very welcome decrease in the number of cases of scarlet fever—this disease has shown a steady diminution in recent years. The number of diphtheria cases remains about the same and the adoption of diphtheria prophylactic measures during the year should be a considerable step in the prevention of this disease.

Incorporated in this report is a summary of the work carried out in the year by your Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. M. STEWART,

M.B., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

8th June, 1938

Officers.

Medical Officer of Health ... ARCHIBALD MACQUEEN, M.D

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor ... ... H. WAINWRIGHT.

Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area in Acres	53,182
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid 1937	8,228
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	1,987
Rateable Value	£29,343
Sum represented by a penny rate	£127
Persons per acre calculated on the population	.16

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—The district, devoted entirely to agriculture, is of a pleasant undulating character. There are milk factories at Pipe Gate, Woore, Stoke-on-Tern, and at Tern Hill. A large aerodrome and training centre for air force recruits is under Government control at Tern Hill.

Elementary education is available in the various parts of the district with facilities for secondary education in the town of Market Drayton.

Vital Statistics for 1937.

		M.	F.	Total	
Live Births:	Legitimate	60	65	125	Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 15.5.
	Illegitimate	2	1	3	
				128	
Still Births:	Legitimate	1	3	4	Rate for 1000 live and still Births 37.
	Illegitimate	—	1	1	
				5	
Deaths		73	59	132	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population, 16.0.
Deaths from:					
Puerperal causes		—	—	—	
Puerperal sepsis		—	—	—	
Other puerperal causes		—	—	—	

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:

All infants per 1000 live births ... ... 54 (7 deaths).

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 56 (7 deaths).

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births —

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 21

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

POPULATION.—The mid year population shows an increase of 108 on the calculated mid year population of 1936.

BIRTHS.—The number of live births, 128, shows an increase of 1 over 1936. The rate for 1937, 15.5, compares with 15.6 for 1936. The rate for England and Wales is 14.9.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths from all causes was 132 (Male 73, Female 59) compared with 102 in 1936. The crude death rate 16.0 after considering the areal comparability factor 0.83 (supplied by the Registrar-General) gives an adjusted death rate of 13.28. The rate for England and Wales is 12.4.

The principal causes of death were:

Nephritis	6
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	5
Senility	7
Cerebral Haemorrhage	6
Heart Disease	37
Bronchitis	4
Pneumonia	3
Suicide	4
Other forms of violence	7
Other causes (excluding infective conditions)	12
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	1
Diphtheria	2
Influenza	10
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4
Other Tuberculosis	2
Cancer	21
Other causes	1

The cancer figure is to be compared with 1936, 13, while the deaths from Heart Disease remain about the same. Two deaths were recorded from diphtheria, none from scarlet fever.

Death rate for Tuberculosis (Phthisis) and Cancer:

	Tuberculosis	Cancer
1936 per 1000 population ...	.12	1.60
1937 per 1000 population ...	.48	2.56

Infantile Mortality:

Rate for 1936	23.6 per 1000 live births.
Rate for 1937	54.0 per 1000 live births.
Rate for England & Wales 58	per 1000 live births.

Section B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. See page 1 of the report.

2. Laboratory facilities: Birmingham University carries out all bacteriological and pathological examinations under the County Council Scheme as there is no County Laboratory.

3. Ambulance facilities: Under a joint scheme adequate ambulance provision has been made for the district and the town of Market Drayton.

Section C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

Woore.

This supply is bought by meter from The Nantwich Rural District Council and obtained from boreholes and reservoir situated in the Parish of Woore.

The supply is subjected to a softening process at the pumping station at Bearstone.

The consumption during 1937 was 5,148,000 gallons, an increase of 418,000 gallons on the previous year.

House connections	152
Farms and farm houses	26
Others	7
School	85 children

7 new house connections have been made during the year.

1 farm house.

1 other.

Norton-in-Hales.

This scheme has also been completed during the year at a cost of £1,856. This is also from the Bearstone Supply.

Up to the present, the following connections have been made:—

House connections	35
Farm houses	5
Other	2

Hodnet.

House connections	107
Farm and farm houses	1
Others	4
Two schools	141 children.

The yearly consumption is estimated at 982,000 gallons—an increase of 262,000 gallons on the previous year.

Cheswardine.

House connections	79
Farm and farm houses	17
Others	2
School	120 children.

This Supply is pumped by Ram from springs, which when tested in 1931 gave a yield of 78,000 gallons per day. The source of supply is privately owned, and the supply is available by agreement with the Owner.

Bacteriological samples were submitted from Hodnet and Cheswardine Supplies to the Public Analyst. The result of the analysis was satisfactory, and the Council have agreed that samples of water be submitted to the Public Analyst yearly from all public supplies controlled by them.

A sample was also submitted for chemical analysis from the Cheswardine Supply, the result of which was satisfactory.

Ightfield.

This Scheme, which is nearing completion, will supply a large area which includes the villages of Ightfield and Calverhall. The supply is from a bore 150 feet deep, from which an adequate supply is available. Pumping tests have not reduced the standing water level. The estimated cost of the scheme with the added extensions is £7,804.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Cheswardine.

This Sewerage Scheme continues to give a satisfactory effluent.

Ternhill Garden City.

The installation is privately owned. The plant is working satisfactorily.

Hodnet.

Plans have been prepared and approved for the provision of sedimentation tanks and filter and the laying of 476 yards of 15 in. sewer to deal with existing sewer from the village now discharging into brook and also to make provision for dealing with proposed new School.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

10 privy middens have been converted to pail closets.

3 privy middens have been converted to chemical closets.

3 pail closets have been converted to water closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—There is no systematic collection of refuse in the district but in certain areas the public has facilities for tipping refuse and these tips are controlled by the Surveyor.

SANITARY INSPECTION.—The number of inspections and other details are:—

Dwelling-houses under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	78
Dwelling-houses under Infectious Diseases	16
Dwelling-houses disinfected	16
Miscellaneous inspections	28
Visits and investigation of Water Supply	208
Bakehouses	12
Cowsheds	70
Slaughter-houses, Meat and Food inspections	144
Offensive trades	4
Drains tested or inspected	70
Complaints investigated	135
Visits to works in progress	53
Owners or agents interviewed	111

Summary of Nuisances or defects remedied:—

Defective walls	31
Defective roof	10
Defective chimneys	10
Defective eave-gutters and fall pipes	21
Defective floors	25
Defective ceilings	13
Defective windows	49
Defective doors	8
Badly lighted rooms	30
Badly ventilated rooms	34
Dampness remedied	14
Defective cooking ranges	51
Defective coppers	35
Glazed sinks provided	14
Defective sink wastes	15
Defective yard paving	17
Deposit of Refuse	2
Defective gulleys	1
New drains provided	21
Defective drains remedied	18
Defective drains cleansed	31
New cesspools provided	10
Defective privy middens converted to pail closets	10

Defective pail closets converted to water closets	6
Defective pail closets converted to chemical closets	3
Defective Water Supply	3
Defective well covers	2
Defective Pumps	8

SWIMMING POOLS.—There are no swimming pools in the district.

SCHOOLS.—It was found necessary to close Stoke-on-Tern school in April and November on account of measles.

Section D. Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 78

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose... 267

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1935 60

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose... 190

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 34

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 26

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 15

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners ... ... —

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ... —

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 18

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:— 17

(a) By owners 17

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 8

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... —

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 35

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 39

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 254

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 8

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 16

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 104

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... —

78 houses have been inspected under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

Repairs and improvements have been carried out on 15 houses and 21 houses have had new drains provided. 34 houses have been represented as unfit for habitation.

4 Demolition Orders have been served.

8 houses have been demolished—7 at Beans Bank and 1 at Moreton Say.

8 houses have been completed and occupied at Beans Bank. One house was occupied to remedy overcrowding. 7 houses re-housed 24 persons under Slum Clearance.

7 houses are in course of erection—2 at Longford, 2 at Spoonley, 3 at Woodseaves (1 six-bedroomed house later converted into 2 three-bedroomed houses).

The following plans have been approved during the year:—

	Overcrowding.	Slum Clearance.
Sowdley	2	10
Woore	7	1
Ercall Heath	2	—
Stoke Heath	2	—
Wistanswick	3	—
Hinstock Links	—	5
	16	16

1936 HOUSING ACT OVERCROWDING SURVEY.

738 houses have been surveyed and measured during the year. This number, together with 342 surveyed in 1936, makes a total of 1,080 completed and recorded.

There are still 250 houses to be dealt with before the survey is complete.

The housing position at the end of December 1936 and also at the end of 1937 is shown below.

Parish	No. of houses overcrowded in Dec., 1936	New cases in 1937	Number remedied during 1937	Number overcrowded Dec. 31st, 1937
Adderley	4	1	2	3
Norton-in-Hales ...	2	1	1	2
Woore	9	—	3	6
Cheswardine ...	3	—	—	3
Childs Ercall	3	—	1	2
Hodnet	6	3	3	6
Moreton Say	5	—	3	2
Sutton-on-Tern ...	4	1	—	5
Hinstock	1	2	—	3
Stoke-upon-Tern ...	6	—	3	3
	43	8	16	35

The following Table shows the deficiency of accommodation according to the housing standards:—

Number of families.	Deficiency equivalent to	Persons affected.
13	½ unit	93
9	1 ,,	63
4	1½ units	28
5	2 ,,	38
3	2½ ,,	24
1	3 ,,	8

6 families have left the district.

6 families have remedied Overcrowding.

2 families have been re-housed by Owner (Marchamley).

2 families have been re-housed by Local Authority.

7 new cases of Overcrowding have been brought about by natural increase in families and one case has come into the district.

It will be seen by the above that while it is easy to keep in touch with overcrowded houses, it is more difficult to keep in touch with large families who are constantly moving about. It has been found that several overcrowded houses have ceased to be overcrowded as a result of changes of tenancy, but it is difficult to say where such families have gone.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS.

19 applications for grants under the above Acts have been received during 1937.

One Owner withdrew his application for grant when the house was completed.

5 houses have been completed and 5 others were in the course of reconstruction.

Several Owners have found difficulty in getting tenders for the work owing to the busy state of the building industry in the district.

Extension of time for completion of work has been granted in several cases.

The provisions of the Acts are well known in the district, and if these are extended after 24th June, 1938, it is anticipated that further applications for grants will be made during 1938.

HOUSING GENERALLY.

Number of houses owned by Local Authority 177

8 houses were built by the Local Authority during the year.

21 houses have been built by private enterprise during the year.

Section E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

Number of Slaughter houses in the district 10

Regular visits are made and the high standard of animals slaughtered has been maintained.

177 visits have been made during the year, and the following carcases have been dealt with:—

Beasts	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Total Number of carcases
158	295	213	2	668

Particulars of meat found diseased or unsound are given below:—

90 lbs. Pork (carcase of pig)—Generalised Tuberculosis.

13 pig's heads.

Emergency Slaughter.

Notification of any slaughter under this heading has not been received during the year.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

There are 22 Licenced Slaughtermen on the register. Casher's Captive Bolt is in use in all Slaughter houses.

Offensive Trades.

Only one licence for a Knacker's Yard has been issued. These premises are now in a satisfactory condition.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SHOPS.

All Cowkeepers and Milksellers in the district are registered.

Number of Producers	399
Number of Retailers	5
Number of Certificates issued	404
Number of Dairies (Factories)	3
Number of Milkshops	—

Number of above cowkeepers and milksellers who hold licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, in respect of:—

	Tuberculin Tested	Accredited	Pasteurised
(a) establishment of producers and bottlers	1	1	—
(b) establishments of producers only	—	78	—
(c) establishments of bottlers only	—	—	—
(d) shops or other establishments not being the establishment at which the milk is produced or bottled	—	—	—
(e) supplementary licences to sell milk from shops or other establishments outside the area of the licencing authority	—	—	—

Cowshed inspections number 70, and the following improvements have been carried out:—

Concrete floors	15
New drainage	4
Lighting	16
Ventilation	17
New Dairies	10
Sterilising Plant installed	8

5 new cowsheds have been constructed during the year.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Licences for Producers and Bottling on Producer's premises are issued by the County Council.

Bottling Licences other than the producer's premises are issued by the Local Authority.

78 Accredited Licences have been granted and one Tuberculin-tested producer who also bottled and sold retail.

There has been a great improvement in the methods of production in recent years, and there appears a strong desire of Producer's holding Licences to provide a clean, pure and healthy milk supply.

There is, however, a large number of producers who have not taken advantage of the Order irrespective of the extra penny per gallon for Licenced Producers. Some of the causes appear to be lack of adequate water supply, buildings constructed for feeding and general mixed farming and the expense of adaptation of such buildings.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 8 bakehouses in the district. Conditions in one bakehouse was not considered satisfactory, and the Owner has stated his intentions of closing the bakehouse.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Duties under this Act are carried out by the County Council.

Section F. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following remarks refer to the notifiable diseases regarding which investigations were made.

Table No. 1 gives the total number of cases notified and a comparison with the previous year. Table No. 2 gives the incidence for each parish. Table No. 3 gives the number of cases notified each month.

Table No. 1.

	1936	1937	Increase	Decrease
Scarlet Fever	18	3	—	15
Diphtheria	4	7	4	—
	22	10	4	15

Table No. 2.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria
Cheswardine	—	—
Childs Ercall	—	—
Hinstock	—	—
Hodnet	—	1
Moreton Say	—	1
Norton-in-Hales	—	1
Stoke-on-Tern	—	5
Sutton-upon-Tern	—	—
Woore	3	—
	3	8

Table No. 3.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria
January	—	6
February	—	—
March	1	1
April	—	—
May	—	—
June	—	—
July	—	—
August	—	—
September	2	—
October	—	—
November	—	—
December	—	1
	3	8

8 cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and one case of Scarlet Fever was isolated at home. 5 cases of Diphtheria were notified from one household, resulting in two deaths, one of which occured at home.

Disinfection was also carried out in one case of cancer, and 4 cases of Tuberculosis.

The Council have adopted a scheme for Diphtheria Immunisation. This provides for free treatment where the parent's income does not exceed £150 per annum. The scheme only came into operation at the latter part of the year.

The following infectious diseases were notified in the year:—

	1937	1936	Admitted Hospital	Died
Scarlet Fever	3	18	2	—
Diphtheria	7	4	6	2
Pneumonia	2	5	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	—	—
Erysipelas	1	2	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	—	—

Age Incidence	S. Fever	Diphtheria	P. Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas
2—3 years	—	1	—	1	—
4—5 ,,	—	1	—	—	—
5—10 ,,	1	—	—	—	—
10—15 ,,	2	3	—	—	—
20—35 ,,	—	2	1	1	—
45—65 ,,	—	—	—	—	1

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1937:—

Age Periods	New Cases. Respiratory M.	New Cases. Respiratory F.	New Cases. Non-Respiratory M.	New Cases. Non-Respiratory F.	Deaths. Respiratory M.	Deaths. Respiratory F.	Deaths. Non-Respiratory M.	Deaths. Non-Respiratory F.
1—5 years	—	—	1	—				
5—15 ,,	—	—	1	1				1
15—25 ,,	1	—	—	1				1
25—35 ,,	2	1	—	—	2			
35—45 ,,	1	—	—	—	2			

Factory and Workshops Acts

Workshops	32
Defects:—	
Found	2
Remedied	—

One case of insufficient closet accommodation.

One case of unsatisfactory bakehouse.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS.

26 Licences have been issued during the year.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises.	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	8	—	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	12	2	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total	20	2	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness	1	—	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation:—				
insufficient	1	—	—	—
unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—
not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
	2	—	—	—